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29 January 1983

Daily Summary of Public Positions on INF

UK — British media yesterday focused on the impending Bush visit and the difficulties encountered by ACDA nominee Adelman. The Times described the Vice President's trip as "one of the most important undertaken by any American leader in years." The press gave wide coverage to the Vice President's news conference, with the general assessment being that he is coming to Europe with no new proposals and with public relations primarily in mind. Articles on the Adelman confirmation hearings point out that he is having a rough time. The Guardian reported that Senator Percy may hold up the nomination until the Administration expresses its willingness to resubmit for ratification treaties dealing with nuclear explosions for both military and peaceful excavation purposes. STAT

West Germany — A spokesman for the Kohl government told reporters yesterday that Kohl and Genscher want to make it clear to the US and to Vice President Bush that Bonn is firmly behind the zero option. SPD deputy chairman Ehmke, in reference to the Vice President's visit, said his presence in West Germany will give the SPD an opportunity to "clarify the German position in the Geneva negotiations and in all Alliance issues." Yesterday's TV coverage of the Vice President's coming visit portrayed the trip as a part of a US diplomatic offensive to reassure its Allies of Washington's negotiating sincerity. West German media generally stressed the Vice President's contention that he will be in Europe not to make new proposals or to act as a negotiator, but rather to consult and listen, and to make clear the US position. STAT

France — In tomorrow's Parade magazine, Mitterrand is quoted as saying that deployment is necessary if Moscow does not agree to negotiate seriously in Geneva. The financial daily Les Echos lamented yesterday that Western Europe is caught between the US and USSR in the INF dispute, noting that "the only ones with no say in the matter are we hostages." Le Monde today, in a report on the Vice President's trip says, " Mr. Bush hinted that Washington was now ready to adopt a less ambitious compromise" on the zero option. STAT

Denmark — According to a recent poll, Danes oppose deployment of INF missiles in other European countries by 51 to 32 percent. Those opposed are chiefly young people, left-of-center voters, and women. Nearly one-third of Denmark's non-socialists, however, oppose deployment. STAT

USSR — TASS has sought to discredit in advance the visit of Vice President Bush to Western Europe. An editorial commentary notes that the Administration has set out on the "impossible task" of convincing the West Europeans of the flexibility in the US negotiating stance on INF when in reality, according to TASS, the Administration intends to adhere to the zero option. A separate TASS commentary similarily charges that the Vice President's visit is "being undertaken in the framework of a propaganda campaign" in order to counter what TASS alleges to be the success, in the eyes of West European public opinion, of arms control proposals by General Secretary Andropov and the Warsaw Pact. Soviet media coverage will intensify as the trip gets under way. No special effort has yet been made to reach Radio Moscow listeners in countries the Vice President will visit. STAT

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